

Falamour

2025/2026

Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Eric Walden
Period 3A
Room: #12
Email: ewalden@flagarts.org

Course Description: Falamour is an advanced performance-based ensemble class intended to give vocalists experience singing medium to difficult choral music within an ensemble. Falamour will sing many ranges of music styles, from ancient to modern, with a focus on vocal jazz. This course incorporates the FALA Habits of Heart and Mind including Common Good, Investment, Collaboration, Critical Inquiry, and Creativity. Students may also be encouraged to compose music for the ensemble. The focus of the course includes learning to read music, sight-singing, music history, vocal technique, concert performances, and basic theory. All course requirements are aligned with the Arizona Academic Standards for the Arts. Evaluation is based on participation, effort, part checks, written examinations and vocal performances.

Course Objectives:

- Perform as an ensemble for a variety of audiences.
- Define basic music terminology.
- Demonstrate proper vocal and breathing technique.
- Analyze differences between solo and large group vocal technique, including scat singing.
- Perform with expression and technical accuracy.
- Sing numerous pieces of music in various styles.
- Learn sight reading techniques and skills.
- Sight-read music accurately and expressively.
- Demonstrate the range and expressive possibilities of the voice.
- View a variety of modern choral performers.

Attendance/Tardy Policy: This is a participation class. Each class is an ensemble rehearsal. As a 5th period class we have fewer classes, thus it is critical to attend and participate in each class. Students get a daily grade of up to ten points. This is *not an attendance grade*, it is a participation grade. There is no way to make up for missed rehearsals. Missed classes result in a zero for that day's grade.

Attendance and Performances: Per FALA policy, students must attend school on the day of and the day after major performances (i.e. theatre, dance, music, etc.). Students will not be allowed to perform if they do not attend school and this will impact their grade accordingly. Students who miss school after the day of a major performance may attend lunch detention to make up their missing work.

Attendance and Illness/Medical Conditions: Please keep your student home if they are sick. If they have a fever, do not send them back to school until they are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medications) for at least 24 hours. If your child is unable to participate in classes for longer than one hour then we require parents to pick up their student so that they can recover at home. Students can return to school when they are able to participate in their classes. We will observe public health protocols as they may be in effect on any given day.

Tardiness: Arriving after the beginning of each class period constitutes a tardy. Tardy students **MUST** sign in at the front office before going to their class. Tardiness is disruptive to the learning environment of the school. Any student tardy 3 times (unexcused) in one month (cumulative) will receive lunch detention. After a student reaches these limits each additional tardy will result in a lunch detention. Eight tardies (unexcused or excused) in any class will result in required attendance at the Student Success Program (after school) or lunch detention. Students will remain in one of these programs until their teachers confirm that all of their missing work is completed

FALA Attendance/Tardy Policy:

See Student Handbook for more detailed information including but not limited to, Loss of Credit, Performance attendance expectations, absences and tardiness.

FALA Attendance and Tardy Policy

	Short-term consequences (Quarterly)	Long-term consequences (Per Semester)
FALA Excused Absences	None	None

Excused Absences	No initial consequences	5 cumulative absences (excused or unexcused) in any given class – Warning Letter & Counselor meeting 8 cumulative absences (excused or unexcused) in any given class – Warning Letter & must attend tutoring if grades are affected.
Unexcused Absences	Detention, in-school suspension	10 cumulative absences (excused or unexcused) in any given class – Warning Letter & Parent/Dean Meeting 11 cumulative absences (excused or unexcused) in any given class – loss of credit
FALA Excused Tardiness	None	None
Excused Tardiness	1st and 2nd tardy: Warning 3rd tardy: Letter sent home 4th tardy: Lunch Detention & Parent Notification 5th tardy: Lunch Detention & Parent Meeting	Potential loss of credit due to inadequate Instructional seat minutes according to the State of Arizona.
Unexcused Tardiness	6th tardy: Lunch Detention 7th tardy: Suspension (in-school) 8th tardy: Considered Habitually Tardy. Further disciplinary action.	

Grading Points and Scale:

Letter Grade	Numerical Average	Grade Point Value
A+	99-100	4.0
A	93-98	4.0
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33

C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67
F	Less than 60	0.0

Description of Grading Practices:

Teachers will apply the overall FALA grading policy to their courses in a consistent manner but will also have the flexibility to make specific decisions for each course. Teachers will inform students and parents about their grading system at the beginning of the school year through their course syllabus. Teachers will post this syllabus on the web page for each course.

In order to promote student learning and mastery throughout each semester teachers will allow students to retake all major assessments except the final exams or final projects at the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2.

There are no re-takes for performances. The re-take policy for each course will be at the discretion of the teacher and clearly explained in the course syllabus. Teachers will post the deadline for retakes (by unit, quarter, semester, etc.) in Infinite Campus (updated as needed).

Teachers will structure their grading system so that a minimum of 60% of a student's grade will be based on formal assessments and a maximum of 40% of a student's grade will be based on informal assessments. Growth portfolios may be included with formal assessments or informal assessments.

Concert Dates:

Falamour's goals will include performing several times a year, at various gigs and service learning opportunities. The ensemble's work and mastery of repertoire to performance level will determine when the singers are ready to perform and how many compositions are ready for performance.

Concert dates will be posted on the FALA website. Here is a tentative concert schedule for the year.

November 20th, 2025 - Fall Acoustic concert (fall semester final)

February 7, 2026 is the scheduled date for the next NAU Jazz/Madrigal Festival.

Spring - Community Service performance

May – Spring Music Concert (spring semester final)

Additional gigs at The Peaks and/or The Bluffs, and possibly other venues, schedule tbd.

Retreat: This year we will agree on a Saturday to have a full day retreat as an ensemble at school. This will be a required activity. A guest artist will work with us for one section of the day. Team building activities activities will alternate with music exercises and choral singing.

NAU Jazz Madrigal Festival - we are planning to participate in the NAU Jazz Madrigal Festival again this year the weekend of February 8th, 2025 on the NAU campus. This is typically a unique opportunity to sing at a renowned statewide choral festival. FALA will pay for our entrance fee in the Jazz/Madrigal Festival. FALA Singers' participation singing at the Festival is mandatory.

The Festival's planned guest artist this year is New York Voices - a Grammy Award-winner vocal group - whose members will be the clinicians for the jazz part of the festival. Attending the Festival's main concert featuring the NAU Shrine of the Ages Choir and Accent is required and paid for by the school. Since the concert is local families will need to provide transportation for their students to and from the concert at Ardrey Auditorium on the NAU campus.

Fundraising:

We have started a FALA Choral Booster Club to do some fundraising to benefit the FALA choral ensembles. Funds raised could be used to pay for an accompanist (we do not currently have one), matching costumes for the ensemble, enhancing the retreat, attending more concerts or taking another choir trip. If we go to Disneyland we will need to do additional fundraising for that trip.

The ensemble members will participate in any fundraising efforts. Students are expected to attend all fundraising concerts and participate in any various fundraising events.

Concert Policy: Falamour members are required to attend all performances and dress rehearsals and participate in any ensemble videos! Any missed performance or video will result in lowering your grade by one letter at the end of the semester. You will be expected to stay for the duration of the performance of all FALA groups. An absence may be excused if a parent contacts Mr. Walden at least **2 weeks** in advance, and your grade may not be affected.

Late Work:

There is no late work for performances.

Make-Up Policy:

Students who miss a performance, except the semester final performance, need to do the following for credit:

- 1 Perform concert pieces for Mr. Walden and/or the class.
- 2 Write a 1-page essay detailing the preparation of performance including concert etiquette, concert dress, etc.
- 3 There is no make up for missing the semester final performances.

Extra Credit: There are generally no extra credit assignments.

Concert Dress Code - Formal Concert: Girls and boys – black bottoms, black tops, black shoes, black socks or hose. We will choose a color to accent our look, i.e. colored neckties, hair ribbons, etc. **Casual concert:** boys and girls black bottoms, black shoes, black socks or hose, but with a colorful blouse or shirt.

Course Requirements/Policies: Refer to the *Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy Student Handbook* for matters of attendance, dress code, and conduct. **No food or drink allowed during music class. Water bottles are allowed and encouraged. Use of cell phones during class is prohibited unless instructed to do so by Mr. Walden for class work.**

Semester grading is based on 60% Formal assessment and 40% Informal assessment:

Formal assessments: Concert performances and dress, portfolio, classroom tests, and any studio recordings the ensemble may do.

Informal assessments: Classroom participation is the biggest portion of this grade. Students get a daily grade of up to ten points per day. Missing rehearsal results in getting a zero for that day's grade. There is no way to make up a missed rehearsal with the ensemble. Part checks and theory homework, if any, would be included as informal assessments.

Singers's Contract: The first full week of school the ensemble members will receive a singer's contract to be signed by the student and a parent/guardian. The purpose of this contract is to state clearly the expectations of behavior for ensemble members and ensure that the students and their families understand how the ensemble functions. The contract will be handed out in hard copy in class and will be available on my teacher page on the FALA website. Return of the signed contract is required.

What's in a Daily Grade?

Each day you get a daily grade of up to ten points. It is based on the expectations detailed in this syllabus. This is **not an attendance grade.**

Missing class results in a grade of zero for the day as there is no way you can make up missing an ensemble rehearsal. Early in each semester, before there are performances and formal assessments, your daily grade makes up your progress to date. Consequently, the zeros resulting from missed classes have a larger impact on your overall grade. As the semester goes on, and you get more daily grades for attending and participating, your overall grade will slowly go up.

Daily grades are part of the informal assessment portion of this course, worth 40% of your final semester grade. Daily grades are for participation, not attendance.

The end of the semester performance(s) serves as the “final” for the semester and is worth 60% of your final grade. There is no way to make up a missed ensemble performance.

It is important for your grade, and for the good of the ensemble, that you are in class every day.

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Classroom Expectations:

- 1 Attend every rehearsal - both daily classes and any additional weekend or evening rehearsals and performances, including concert sound checks.
- 2 Be on time and ready with a pencil and assigned music.
- 3 Bring a positive attitude to class and be prepared to spend every class working on your musical skills and talents.
- 4 Be helpful to students learning in the classroom. Do not gossip, talk badly of others, or pick on someone's mistakes.
- 5 Be off book and have your parts memorized by the given deadlines.
- 6 Respect our music room, piano, practice rooms and instruments. We share this room with all FALA music students.
- 7 Keep cell phones and electronic devices put away.
- 8 Most importantly have fun. Music is a gift for you and those you wish to share it with.

Performance Expectations:

- 1 Be on time for call time.
- 2 Participate in sound checks. It is important to set sound levels with the entire ensemble.
- 3 Be there for performance call time all ready to sing (clothes, hair, makeup as appropriate).
- 4 Help set up before the concert and help break down afterwards.
- 5 You are expected to stay and listen to the other FALA performers. You may not leave after we sing unless you have permission from Mr.

- Walden, and then only under extenuating circumstances.
- 6 Bring the same positive attitude to performances that you rehearse with very day.
 - 7 Most importantly enjoy singing with the ensemble and have fun!

We, student and parent/guardian, have read and understand the syllabus for this course.

We will send to Mr. Walden the email addresses of all parents and guardians who need the schedule and information for this class.

Parent Signature & Date: _____

Student Print Name: _____

Student Signature & Date: _____

Returned signed to Mr. Walden by Monday, August 11th. It is worth 20 points on time.